



**BRENTWOOD
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Local Plan 2015-2030

Preferred Options

July 2013

COMMENT FORM

(For official use only)

Comment
No.

Ack. date

You can comment on the Local Plan 2015-2030 Preferred Options online at www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan. Alternatively, please use this form to share your views on the contents of the Local Plan.

Email Address:

YOUR COMMENTS

Please indicate which section(s) of the Local Plan you are commenting on (please clearly state the Policy reference or paragraph number):

Primarily - CP4: West Horndon Opportunity Area & Supporting Documents

plus the following in connection with impact on West Horndon;

S2: Amount & Distribution of Residential Development

CP3: Strategic Sites 020 / 021 / 037

DM11: New Development in the Green Belt

DM17: Wildlife and Nature Conservation

DM24: Affordable Housing

DM28: Gypsy and Traveller Provision

DM35: Flood Risk

Appendix 3: Housing Trajectory

Please specify if you **Support** or **Object** (tick as appropriate):

Support

Object

Comments (please use additional sheet if required):

The Brentwood Borough Local Plan 2015-2030 and supporting documents do not provide sufficiently detailed information to justify the disproportionate allocation of 43% of the borough housing requirement and 70% of Gypsy and Traveller pitches to be allocated to the village of West Horndon. These will treble its current size whilst decimating a large area of Green Belt. Villagers did not receive promised feedback from the 2011 consultation and previously discounted areas of Greenfield have now been put back into the LDP without explanation despite strong resident opposition to Green Belt development. The character of the village will be irreparably damaged by such a huge development. I am being expected to make a decision on the future of my neighbourhood with limited information which is wholly unacceptable.

The LDP fails to state how and when the local road, education, health, rail and utility infrastructure will be improved to accommodate such an aggressive development and from where the necessary funding has been secured. It would be irresponsible to proceed without detailed planning for such vital associated services. There is no further rail capacity available and the route does not provide access to our borough. The housing trajectory shows a staged construction of houses yet there is no evidence of a demand for house building in the area as potential sites have been left undeveloped in Station Road and on the Elliott's site for several years. Affordable and social housing is not ideally situated in rural areas such as West Horndon and the new development is unlikely to comprise of properties similar to the family homes that dominate the village demographic.

The LDP gives no consideration to the wider implications from other developments in the vicinity, such as the DP World port and proposed A2 Thames crossing, both of which will dramatically increase traffic in the area and place further burdens on the Borough's infrastructure without the additional traffic from the proposed West Horndon development. There are only two routes into Brentwood from West Horndon (A128 / Warley) and access to the area will be gridlocked.

Green Belt development is designed to halt the sprawl of London and should only be in exceptional cases. In the evidence documents on the BBC website the projected population increase for Brentwood is primarily migratory. I see absolutely no reason why the Green Belt should be threatened by movement of people which, by its very nature, can settle on non green belt locations. The wildlife in the area will be adversely affected by the proposed development on Green Belt and I must question whether investigation has been made into protected species which inhabit the area such as Great Crested Newts as there is no mention in the LDP.

The Environmental Agency lists areas 020, 021 and 037 as being on flood plain as borne out by the most recent flooding incidents in 2012. There is no evidence that this factor has been considered in the LDP and to site traveller and gypsy pitches on a flood plain is unacceptable.

I do not believe that the LDP is sound or robust enough to be considered in its present form. I acknowledge that progress must be made and that some development may be necessary. However, much more investigation needs to be undertaken by the council and the views of the community considered in depth before any decisions are made that will affect us in the long term.

Please return to Planning Policy Team, Brentwood Borough Council, Town Hall, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AY, or alternatively attach completed form and email planning.policy@brentwood.gov.uk

Please note that all responses will be published online. More information can be found at www.brentwood.gov.uk/localplan

All responses should be received by Wednesday 2nd October 2013